

Most local domestic violence programs in North Carolina offer twenty-four-hour hotlines, court advocacy, support groups and shelter for victims. The programs differ, however, and health care providers will want to learn what services are offered locally. Most shelters will accept minors on an emergency basis and work with them to bring about their return to a safe home, placement elsewhere, emancipation, or other appropriate arrangements.

PATIENT'S REASSURANCE AND EDUCATION

To repeat and summarize points made earlier: Young pregnant and parenting women represent a paradox. On the one hand, their condition (pregnancy or motherhood) is adult in nature and their right to deal with it must be respected. On the other hand, as the AAP reminds practitioners, the patient is still an adolescent and often one living in difficult circumstances,⁹¹ appropriately a pediatric patient,⁹² and entitled to broad attention and concern, particularly if she becomes a mother.⁹³ Some pregnant minors do not understand the basic facts of sexual activity or pregnancy. Providers can educate them and may be able to help them reject sexual activity⁹⁴ by telling them directly that they do not have to allow it. Counseling, referring, and supporting pregnant adolescents, especially the youngest among them,⁹⁵ is

91. AAP Committee on Adolescence, *Adolescent Pregnancy—Current Trends and Issues: 1998*, 103 *PEDIATRICS* 516–20 (Feb. 1999), in *AAP POLICY REFERENCE GUIDE* at 27 and at www.aap.org.

92. AAP Committee on Child and Adolescent Health, *Age Limits of Pediatrics*, 81 *PEDIATRICS* 736 (May 1988) and at www.aap.org.

93. AAP Committees on Adolescence and on Early Childhood, Adoption, and Dependent Care, *Care of Adolescent Parents and Their Children*, 107 *PEDIATRICS* 429–34 (Feb. 2001) and at www.aap.org.

94. MUSICK, YOUNG, POOR, AND PREGNANT at 85.

95. “[I]t is really the early adolescents who need the most help and counseling [from health care providers], but . . . they are the least likely to report for followup appointments.” Sherry Lynn Marcus Hatcher, *The Adolescent Experience of Pregnancy and Abortion: A Developmental Analysis*, 2 *J. YOUTH & ADOLESCENCE* 53, 72 (1973).